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Thursday, June 9, 2016

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SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

A paratrooper from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada dropped from 10,000 feet while displaying a Canadian flag during the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway held Saturday. For the story see page 2.

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SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Soldiers from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry participated in the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway held Saturday.

Three-year history project pays off

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

History was remembered in Fort Erie on the weekend.

The community came together Saturday to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway, considered one of the defining military events in Canada history.

The battle was part of the Fenian Raids, and an act many historians believed led to confederation a year later in 1867.

Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop estimated 2,000 people stood along Ridge Road to watch as soldiers from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry marched from

the Crystal Ridge Arena to the Village Square, where he granted each regiment Freedom of the City before they went onto Battlefield Park.

Both regiments participated in a ceremony at the park to honour their ancestors who fought at the Battle of Ridgeway in 1866.

Approximately 1,300

people attended the event, which included a para-trooper from The Queen's Own Rifles dropping from 10,000 feet while displaying a Canadian flag, as well as tributes to the soldiers who fought at the battle with plaque unveilings, a wreath laying and gun salute.

CONTINUED > PAGE 3

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SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Soldiers fired off shots in a salute for those who fought for Canada and Britain during the Fenian Raids.

Battle is 'an important part of our heritage'

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 2

Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates said the Battle of Ridgeway was "the turning point in Canadian history" that led to the formation of a new country, which wouldn't have been possible without the soldiers who sacrificed their lives.

He thanked the men and women who have and continue to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces for their dedication to their country.

"Important moments in our history, such as what the brave men and women accomplished here 150 years ago, remain alive because of your efforts and dedication," he said. "We could not be more proud and appreciative of the job you do and the sacrifices that you make. We are forever in your debt."

Redekop called the Battle

of Ridgeway "an important part of our heritage as well as the heritage of our country."

"This project was three years in the works and it was made possible with the support of the previous council and (former) mayor Doug Martin. It's important to recognize who got on board to make this happen," Redekop said.

He also noted the organizing work of Jane Davies of the Fort Erie Historical Museum and cultural services manager, and of Russ Wilson, the town's general manager of community gaming and development services.

Events concluded with a festival at Crystal Ridge Arena with tactical demonstrations, modern and historic weapons, artifacts and uniform displays.

The Battle of Ridgeway was fought June 2, 1866 between

the Canadian militia and the Fenian army. These Irish-Americans, many of them veterans from the U.S. Civil War that ended in 1865, intended to capture the British territory of Canada and use it to barter with Britain for Ireland's freedom.

British soldiers were deployed to Ridgeway and to the Fort Erie dock to fight the Fenian army. While the Fenians won those battles, the army lost the campaign and charged with violation of the U.S. Neutrality Act.

Following the Battle of Ridgeway, the colonies felt they could better defend themselves instead of relying on Britain for their defence. One year later, Canada was born.

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SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Melani Pyke, Abbie Scheffold and Melissa Lococo, art instructors, will host the upcoming art camp being held at the Bell Tower Sanctuary in July.

Art camp returns to Bell Tower Sanctuary this summer

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

When the excitement from sum-

mer vacation begins to wane and the children are asking what they can do, the Fort Erie Arts Council has the answer.

The arts council will host its second annual Art-X-Era at the Bell Tower Sanctuary, at 575 Central Ave., in downtown Bridgeburg.

Instructors Melani Pyke and Melissa Lococo are set to return to teach children ages five to 13 about drawing, painting, print-making and more.

With the success of last year's summer camp, Abbie Scheffold has signed on as a third instructor to help with camp activities.

"With an extra instructor, it means we can run the camps longer," Lococo said.

"Last year, we originally had one week of camp but it was so successful and it sold out so fast so we decided to extend the camp an extra week. This year, we've added a third week of camp."

The three camp weeks have been planned for July 4 to July 8, July 11 to 15, and July 18 to 22, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., with before and after care available if needed.

There will be a different theme each week. The first week's theme is DIY Upcycle, which will focus on mixed media and paint. The second week is Creative Minds and will focus on painting, drawing, mixed media and 3D art. Crazy Creatures and youngsters will have a chance to create puppetry, mask making and cartoons during the third week.

The fee is \$150 per child and includes all materials and snacks.

A discount is available for Fort Erie Arts Council members and for families with multiple children attending the camp.

For more information or to register a child for the art camp e-mail fecclasses@gmail.com or call Lococo at 905-580-2347.

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Briefs

Battle at Old Fort Erie

Watch as re-enactors recreate the Battle of Ridgeway at Old Fort Erie on June 11 and 12.

The opening ceremony will be held Saturday at 1 p.m., and the skirmish will begin at 1:30 p.m. On both days.

There will be lectures, living history camps and military demonstrations. Spectators are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs.

For more information call Old Fort Erie at 905-871-0540.

Pasta night for Tristan

The Italo-Canadian Club Hall is hosting a pasta dinner fundraiser on Saturday, June 11 between 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The proceeds from the dinner will support Tristan Romeo, a seven-year-old boy battling medulloblastoma, a rare form of

brain cancer, and his family. The dinner, catered by Maria's Catering, will include Bruschetta bread, pasta and meatballs, roasted chicken, potatoes, garden salad and desert.

Tickets are \$25 per person. For more information call 905-991-8067 or 905-871-7935.

Car show to benefit Tender Wishes

Car fanatics are revving up for fun at the 25th annual Rods and Relics Car show.

The annual event is planned for Sunday, June 12 at the Fort Erie Race Track, at 319 Bertie St. between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Car show organizer Frank Raso said there is always "a wide variety of cars" to view and anywhere from "300 to 500 people attend."

"We see both original, unmodified vehicles to highly customized hot rods and everything in-between. Most of the vehicles are American-made

but foreign cars are also well represented," he said.

Admission for spectators is \$2 per person. Children 12 and under are free. The cost for car show participants is \$10.

Proceeds from the car show will be donated to the Tender Wishes Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides wishes to children suffering from potentially life-threatening illnesses.

"To help make up for our rained-out show in 2015, we are hosting our first-ever Pasta Night at the Italo-Canadian hall on June 16, which will also be to support Tender Wishes," Raso said.

Pasta will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$9 for adults and \$5.50 for children if purchased in advance, or \$10 at the door. Tickets are available at Fort Erie Timber Mart.

Raso encourages everyone to attend the car show because there is something for everyone.

"We put on a good show every year and the money we raise goes to local children in need."

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The Fort Erie Times is published by Postmedia.
Phone: 905-871-3100 • Fax: 905-871-5243
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The
Fort Erie Times

Peter Conradi regional editor
Sarah Ferguson editor

Point of View

Congratulations to organizers of the 150th anniversary of Battle of Ridgeway

The community came together this past weekend to commemorate an important event that occurred on the site of Battlefield Park in Ridgeway 150 years ago.

The Battle of Ridgeway was a defining moment in Canadian history, which saw Canadian militia battle the Fenian Army on June 2, 1866.

These Irish-Americans, many of them veterans from the U.S. Civil War, invaded with the intent to capture the British territory of Canada and use it to barter with Britain for Ireland's freedom.

As a result of the battle that took place in this town, talks toward confederation hastened and our country as we know it today, Canada, was born. Without the Battle of Ridgeway, Canada might not have become its own nation, which is why the 150th anniversary of the battle is significant.

Saturday was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness soldiers from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry as they marched from the Crystal Ridge Arena to the Village Square, where Mayor Wayne Redekop

granted each regiment Freedom of the City before they went onto Battlefield Park.

It's unlikely that we'll ever see both The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry come together for another event like the one that occurred Saturday.

Both regiments participated in a ceremony at the park to honour their ancestors who fought at the Battle of Ridgeway in 1866.

The goal of the events was to pay tribute to the soldiers that gave their lives during this battle.

Organizers estimate approximately 1,300 people attended the ceremony. While that is a large number of people, given the significance of the battle and its impact on the future of our country, it's surprising more people didn't attend.

We hope that Saturday's events will cause everyone to ask more questions about Canadian history and learn more about the founding of our nation.

It was an amazing day and the organizers and many volunteers behind the anniversary events should be congratulated for a job well done.



Do you remember?

Our thanks to the gentleman who stopped by the museum tent at the Crystal Ridge Arena last Saturday to tell us about last week's photo. We apologize that we lost the piece of paper with your name as it was so busy at the anniversary event. The golfers were taking part in a Knights of Columbus golf tournament at Rio Vista in 1976. From left, are Joe Kranics, grand knight, Walter Kline and Dick Willick. We hope they had as good weather for their event as we did for the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway. Thanks to all who helped make this such a success. This week's photo has to have been a track and field event. If you know any of the participants, or if you recognize yourself in this 1980 photo, please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail us at museum@forterie.ca.



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Marching to Battlefield Park



Spectators watched as soldiers from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry marched along Ridge Road to Battlefield Park during the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway held Saturday.



JOSEPH BORDO/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Soldiers fired gun salutes.



Soldiers performed songs while they paraded to Battlefield Park on Highway 3.



Families and individuals brought Canadian flags and waved them as soldiers marched along Ridge Road to Battlefield Park on Highway 3.



From left, Michaela Loney, Darragh Quinn, Nora Ward and Bianca Aquilina waved Canadian flags and cheered as soldiers marched down Ridge Road.

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HOW WE GROW:

The Municipal Comprehensive Review will look at the land we have available across Niagara, and will ensure we have enough to sustain our expected growth to the year 2041. It will also examine how that land is distributed throughout Niagara.



HOW WE FLOW:

The Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan will ensure Niagara has the infrastructure to provide critical water and wastewater services to our growing region in a sustainable and financially responsible way.



HOW WE GO:

The Transportation Master Plan will look at how we currently travel in and around Niagara and how we can improve our transportation systems, including options for walking, cycling and public transit, to better serve Niagara's future needs.

GET INVOLVED:

Residents are invited to attend a Public Information Centre in their community to learn how each of these projects contribute to Niagara's overall growth plan for the next 25 years, and how you can have your voice heard.

June 15, 2016

Town of Fort Erie
Leisureplex Banquet Hall
3 Municipal Centre Dr.
4 - 8 p.m.

June 16, 2016

Township of West Lincoln
Council Chambers
318 Canborough St.
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June 22, 2016

City of Welland
Civic Square - Front Foyer
60 East Main St.
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There is an opportunity at any time during this process for interested persons to bring comments and concerns to the attention of the project managers, and to review outstanding issues. If you have any questions or comments or wish to be added to the study mailing list, please contact us:

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If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the Niagara Region's Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

If you are unable to attend, or would like more information, please go to the project website <https://www.niagararegion.ca/2041>.

The Transportation and Water and Wastewater studies follow the Master Plan process as outlined in Section A.2.7 of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Oct 2000, as amended in 2007 and 2011). The Master Plan will be filed under Approach #2 of the MEA Class EA Approach for Master Planning. The Master Servicing Plan will satisfy the planning requirements for Schedule A, A+ and select Schedule B projects and provide the basis for future investigations of identified Schedule B and C projects.

150th celebrated



SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop participated in the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway.



Soldiers performed a number of songs during the events held Saturday.

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SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Soldiers from the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry participated in the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway held Saturday in Fort Erie.

Health Corner

Listen To Your Mouth

Most of the time, we listen to what is coming out of our mouths but what I want to focus on in this article is listening to what is happening in your mouth. Yes, there are times when your mouth is trying to talk to you! When your mouth is not talking to you, it is a happy mouth. But there are many times when your teeth and gums are trying to tell you something and you just aren't listening.



Dr. John Inigo

If you bite into something cold and some of your teeth are sensitive to the cold sensation, then your mouth is talking to you. If hot foods or the pressure of biting or rolling something causes your mouth to be sore, then it is sending you a big message. The mouth really is an amazing place. When something is going wrong, most of the time it will send you a signal. The question is whether or not we are listening to our mouths or just going to ignore the messages coming out of it. Generally, when there is any kind of tooth sensitivity, you can literally point right to it and say this is what is bothering me. When a tooth is painful, it needs to be taken care of right away. Many times, the nerves of the teeth, for a variety of reasons, may start to die. This can result in a toothache for a couple of days before the pain starts to subside. Most people think that the problem has gone away, when what

is really happening is that the nerve inside of the tooth, called the pulp, is starting to die. The nerve of the tooth will then send you a few more jabs of pain until it has totally died. At this point, it starts to leak out toxins into the surrounding bone and one day, something out of nowhere, you will wake up with a large pus pocket in your mouth the size of a small fruit. Tooth pain that has come and gone should not be dismissed as having 'healed itself'. That rarely ever occurs.

Another type of pain that can be experienced in your mouth is gum pain. Pain in your gums is generally related to gum disease or what is called periodontal disease. Bacteria in your mouth start to eat away at the bony structures around the teeth causing a big gum pocket. This gum pocket can become infected causing pain and loose teeth. Again, your mouth is talking to you and telling you that there is a problem. The pain you disappear

only to come back much stronger the next time around, which will send you an even bigger message. At this point, it is very common to see that the gums bleed very easily upon brushing or upon eating. Bleeding in any part of your body is generally not a sign of good health. This is particularly true in your gums. Bleeding of the gums is a sure sign that something more severe is going on and it is a problem that will not go away by itself.

Learn to listen to your mouth. Pain upon chewing, sensitivity to hot or cold foods, loose teeth, bleeding gums, and holes in teeth means that your mouth is talking to you. It is similar to a crying baby. The louder the cries, the more attention it is going to need.

Sometimes it is difficult to decipher what your mouth is trying to tell you. Your dentist can help you interpret the messages from your mouth. Make sure you visit your dentist next time your mouth speaks to you.

Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie and Ridgeway, Ontario. He can be reached at Inigo Dental Dentistry 855-871-2903 or Inigo Ridgeway Dentistry (905) 894-5555. For further information and discussion, please visit his office at www.inigodentistry.com.

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BANK LOCAL

A look back
at the week
in Niagara



OUR NIAGARA

It was definitely busier than last year

Some celebrities hadn't even flown out Monday morning after another successful Comic Con, yet co-founder Chris Dabrowski was already planning for 2017.

In fact, Dabrowski said dates for next year's pop-culture extravaganza have already been set for the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls: June 2, 3 and 4.

A few guests have been booked, while several vendors indicated they want to come back, he said.

It's a positive vibe Dabrowski is used to getting now after organizing five events.

"Our attendance this year surpassed last year's attendance, and we hope that continues for years to come," he said.

Final numbers were still being tallied Monday morning, but Dabrowski said more than 25,000 people jam-packed this past weekend's Comic Con in the Honeymoon Capital.

"It was definitely busier than last year (which attracted more than 20,000 fans over three days)," he said.

"It's an event that just caters to people of all ages, and it spans many generations. There's something for everybody to do, and people can relive their youth. Cosplayers come out and get together with their friends and enjoy the weekend. It's an event that has a lot of buzz around it in the city, people get excited about it and tourists come to the city to attend."

Based on attendance and the responses he received from fans, vendors and celebrities, Dabrowski doesn't believe the event has its highest point.

"It's still growing. That's the trend," he said.

It was a common sight to see massive lines of people outside the convention centre on Stanley Avenue waiting to get inside.

Dabrowski said fans started to line up at 8 a.m. and the doors didn't open Saturday and Sunday until 10 a.m.

He said staff had to ensure they didn't allow too many fans into the building that would have exceeded fire code capacity.

"We're very cognizant of the fact that we don't want to oversell with pre-sale tickets. It's just a matter of logistics — making sure that it's staffed properly. We did a great job of that this year," said Dabrowski.

"We got everybody in the doors in a timely manner, so we were able to accommodate. You can only get people in so quickly, so we have volunteers and staff that do their best to (allow) people (in) as quickly as possible."

There were more than 100 vendors and exhibitors offering everything from pop-culture merchandise to original art.

Henry Winkler, known to millions as the Fonzie from Happy Days, was one of the top celebrity draws.

Tom Payne, who plays Jesus on the Walking Dead, was another fan favourite.

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Bridgeburg Rustic Farmers Market: Rhubarb is delicious and nutritious

If rhubarb is ready, then strawberries are right on their heels.

This week at the Bridgeburg Rustic Farmers Market, pick up a few stalks of rhubarb and let the kids experience them. Give each kid a stalk with the ends cut off and a cup with a bit of sugar.

Let them dip it in the sugar and chop off a chunk. They'll get that pucker face and go back for more. What kid doesn't like the sweet and tart experience? Don't forget to cut off the leaves: they're toxic.

Another reason to eat rhubarb is that it is jam-



packed full of vitamins, nutrients and fibre. It is filled with more of the things we need in our diet than spinach and kale have — you know, the stuff we're supposed to eat.

Well, for those finicky adults and kids that gag

when you even bring up the subject of a green salad, there's a great excuse for them to have a slice of strawberry rhubarb pie, wouldn't you say?

Drop by the Viniki Farms booth at the market this week and get some of that rhubarb from Harish Patel, the owner of the farm, himself. Harish, who originally hails from Mumbai, India, a recently retired structural engineer, went back into the family business, farming, about 15 years ago, in Niagara On-The-Lake. Viniki is 15 acre farm, which consists of 40 per cent tender fruit trees

with 18 varieties of apples. Harish also has two 4,000 square foot greenhouses to keep those tomatoes and spinach coming all year round.

With a large and varied array of vegetables, berries and herbs, and plants, your produce needs are fully covered by Harish and his family throughout the year.

The Bridgeburg Rustic Farmers Market runs Tuesdays between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the corner of Jarvis St. and Central Ave.

Chrystal Haverstock is the Bridgeburg Rustic Farmers Market co-ordinator.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Rhubarb is in season at the Bridgeburg Rustic Farmers Market.

STRAWBERRY RHUBARB JELLO

- 2 cups of water
- 2 cups of chopped rhubarb
- 1 box strawberry Jello
- Put water and rhubarb in a small pot and bring to a boil. Simmer 5 minutes.
- Add Jello, and whisk quickly to dissolve well.
- Cool slightly, and pour into 4 fancy glasses.
- Chill until firm.
- Garnish with a fresh strawberry and/or whipped cream.

Robots aren't just for the kids, adults are welcome to enjoy them too

At the Fort Erie Public Library, we have robots, and they're not just for kids.

Adults are invited to a watch 'em and try 'em session with the brand new learning-teaching robots at the Centennial branch on Wednesday, June 15, at 1 p.m.

Children and Teen Librarian Karissa Alexov will introduce three new robots: Ozobots, which are programmed by colouring on paper; Dash, which can talk and fetch your snacks; and Sphero, a rolling ball that you can program to go through an obstacle course.

Anyone can learn to code at this fun robot session for beginners. Coding sounds very technical and mysterious, but there are



books about fundamental programming skills that can help any of us on our way to this next step in computer literacy.

We recommend the following books for all ages: *Adventures in Coding*, by Eva Holland and Chris Minnick; *Cathleen Shamleh's Electronics for Kids*; *Dummies*, and *Ruby for Kids* by Christopher Haupt. So, You Want to Be a Coder? by Jane Bedell is

a great resource for young people who are interested in a career in programming, video games, or robotics.

We're on a countdown to go "Wild!" at the library. Saturday, June 25 will be the first day to sign up for summer reading, and kids of all ages can drop in at any branch all day long to register for the Summer Reading Club and get their own notebook! From 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Centennial branch, we'll also build a giant cardboard castle, make crafts such as animal masks and buttons, and play WILD games.

This summer, kids are encouraged to escape their everyday, step outside their ordinary and seek the unknown and

untamed through reading. Whether it's outdoors, outrageous or out of bounds, the unexplored is calling, and with TD Summer Reading Club books, activities, and an unleashed Imagination, kids can let go and find their wild this summer.

The next two movies coming up at the library are as different in tone as can be, but both use events of Second World War and its aftermath as keys to the stories. "A Royal Night Out" starring Sarah Gadon, Bel Powley, Emily Watson, Rupert Everett and Mark Hadfield is a romantic drama about the night of the V-E Day celebrations in London, when the two royal princesses were allowed out of the palace to join the celebrations.

The night was full of excitement, danger and the first flutters of romance.

"A Royal Night Out" plays at the Crystal Ridge branch on Tuesday, June 14 at 2 p.m., and at the Centennial branch on Thursday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m. "Remember" features Christopher Plummer as Zev, a dementia-affected senior who believes that the Auschwitz guard who murdered his family some 70 years ago is living in America under an assumed identity. Despite the obvious challenges, Zev sets out on a mission to deliver long-delayed justice with his own trembling hand. What follows is a brilliant, suspenseful cross-continent road-trip with stunning consequences. "Remember" will be screened on Tuesday,

June 21 at 2 p.m. at the Crystal Ridge branch, and at the Centennial branch on Thursday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m.

The Nordic Walking demonstration and workshop by the Niagara Public Health volunteer advisors, originally scheduled for June 8, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, June 29, beginning at 11:00 a.m. We hope you are able to join us then!

For information on books, programs, films and more, visit www.fepj.ca. You can also sign up to receive our electronic newsletter, by scrolling to the bottom of the homepage and clicking on 'Subscribe'.

Amy Roebuck is the community services coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.

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Naturalist Bert Miller was 'a father figure'

I recently rediscovered an article in the Niagara Falls Review that I wrote in the 1980s about Bert Miller and after some thought, I wanted to once again honour the memory of the peninsula naturalist.

The late Bert Miller was member of at least two nature clubs in the 1960s - Niagara Falls Nature Club and Niagara Peninsula Club Naturalists in St. Catharines. Both clubs are still very active in 2016.

In 1968, Frank Kingdon of St. Catharines first met Bert and his wife, Annie, at a Peninsula Field Naturalist Club meeting. I interviewed Frank 21 years after Bert had passed away.

Frank said that Bert Miller loved to lead hikes for Niagara Falls Club members down the Niagara gorge and



When Nature Calls

whirlpool areas. Back then he reminded me that Bert had just turned 80 years.

Bert had amazing stamina. On these gorge trips, Frank said club members had to move along to keep up with him when he moved from one site to another.

In previous writings I portrayed Bert as one of 'God's athletes'. As an octogenarian, he was in excellent shape. Frank Kingdon remembered very clearly one particular gorge trip.

"One day we were coming

back up from a whirlpool nature hike. Bert and the members met a cute little girl. She had a bouquet of flowers in her hand. Bert stared at her and then uncharacteristically he began to scold the girl. She had clutched in her hand at least ten harebell flowers," he said.

Frank said that Bert pointed out how special these flowers were and that they should be left for others to enjoy too. He then apologized to the little girl for his outburst but gently and firmly reminded her to be considerate of those who would follow. According to Frank, this was one of Bert's consistent themes: "Remember that others will follow your steps so leave the area untouched as you came." He said that Bert Miller was a true conser-

vationist, a true preserver of nature." Thanks for the memories, Frank.

Bert preserved over 3,000 pressed plant leaves and specimens for McMaster University Botanical Section and Buffalo Museum of Science. A true preserver.

How old is old? To me it's reaching 90.

My two nature mentors Bert Miller and John Lessie reached 90. The Lord willing, that's my desire.

Bert, when he was 86, wrote a nature article for the Fort Erie Times Review. I called him up and invited him to go with my Welland Senior Elementary class to Point Abino. He gladly agreed. What a man. Still supple the 6 foot three naturalist came with us.

We parked on the end of Brown's Road. It was trillium time on the Point. We reached the west shore. Bert had stopped three times to share his great knowledge. On the West shore there was an unusual sight. We, students, parents and I watched Bank swallows fly full speed into nests carved into the sand bank. An amazing sight.

I turned to Bert. No Bert I looked back down the shore. There was Bert stretched out on the ground. My feelings went to shock with the sight. I ran back toward him. Then that voice, "Earl bring the class here! I have a rare flower." Bert was doing his thing. His long time acute eyesight had grown less. Prostate he could see the minute stamens better. What a



SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Bert Miller.

man! We eventually reached beautiful Point Abino light-house. It had been a great day.

Earl Plato is a Fort Erie resident, local historian and nature lover.

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MIKE DIABATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

"It's an event that just caters to people of all ages, and it spans many generations," says organizer Chris Dahrowski of the successful pop-culture extravaganza.

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More than 25,000 people attended the convention this year

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia Network

Some celebrities hadn't even flown out Monday morning after another successful Comic Con, yet co-founder Chris Dahrowski was already planning for 2017.

In fact, Dahrowski said dates for next year's pop-culture extravaganza have already been set for the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls: June 2, 3 and 4.

A few guests have been hooked, while several vendors indicated they want to come back, he said.

It's a positive vibe Dahrowski is used to getting now after organizing five events.

"Our attendance this year surpassed last year's attendance, and we hope that continues for years to come," he said.

Final numbers were still being tallied Monday morning, but Dahrowski said more than 25,000 people jam-packed this past weekend's Comic Con in the Honeycomb Capital.

"It was definitely busier than last year (which attracted more than 20,000 fans over three days)," he said.

"It's an event that just caters to people of all ages, and it spans many generations. There's something for everybody to

do, and people can relive their youth.

Cosplayers come out and get together with their friends and enjoy the weekend. It's an event that has a lot of buzz around it in the city, people get excited about it and tourists come to the city to attend."

Based on attendance and the response he received from fans, vendors and celebrities, Dahrowski doesn't believe the event has hit its highest point.

"It's still growing. That's the trend," he said.

It was a common sight to see massive lines of people outside the convention centre on Stanley Avenue waiting to get inside.

Dahrowski said fans started to line up at 8 a.m. and the doors didn't open Saturday and Sunday until 10 a.m.

He said staff had to ensure they didn't allow too many fans into the building that would have exceeded fire code capacity.

"We're very cognizant of the fact that we don't want to oversell with pre-sale tickets. It's just a matter of logistics — making sure that it's staffed properly. We did a great job of that this year," said Dahrowski.

"We got everybody in the doors in a timely manner, so we were able to accommodate. You

can only get people in so quickly, so we have volunteers and staff that do their best to (allow) people (in) as quickly as possible."

There were more than 100 vendors and exhibitors offering everything from pop-culture merchandise to original art.

Henry Winkler, known to millions as the Fonzy from Happy Days, was one of the top celebrity draws.

Tom Payne, who plays Jesus on the Walking Dead, was another fan favourite.

Other celebrities included wrestling legend Shawn Michaels and Star Trek's Walter Koenig.

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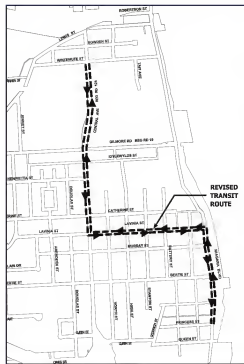
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Public Notice

Bus Detour - Catherine Street June 1 to December 31, 2016

The Town of Fort Erie has started construction on Catherine St., Kingsmill St. S and High St.. The construction will continue throughout the remainder of 2016. During this time, all transit routes will be detoured from Catherine Street (Parkway to Central) onto Lavinia Street from June 1 to December 31, 2016. For more information about the detour, please visit forterie.ca/pages/PublicTransitInformation. For information about the Catherine Street Construction Project, please visit forterie.ca/pages/CapitalConstructionProjects.



TENDER FOR

THUNDER BAY STORM DRAINAGE PHASES 3 & 4 - BERNARD AVENUE AND COOK AVENUE STORM SEWER CONTRACT NO. ISE-16T-TBRA09

The Thunder Bay Storm Drainage Phases 3 & 4 project will consist of construction of a new storm sewer on Bernard Avenue from Thunder Bay Road to Evadere Avenue (Phase 3), and a new storm sewer with road resurfacing on Cook Avenue from Thunder Bay Road to Riselay Avenue (Phase 4).

Sealed tenders addressed to Laura Bubanko, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk will be received by the Customer Service Unit (CSU) at 1 Municipal Centre Drive (Town Hall), Fort Erie, Ontario until

2:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME on: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22nd, 2016

All formal competitive bid opportunities are posted at www.bidding.com/forterie and effective Wednesday, June 8th, 2016, tender documents can either be purchased from the Town Hall, Infrastructure Services upon payment of twenty-eight dollars and twenty-five cents. (\$28.25) or viewed at the Niagara Construction Association Offices located at 34 Scott Street, St. Catharines, Ontario.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any and all tenders, and the lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES: ENGINEERING

THE TENDER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES: ENGINEERING MANN DRAIN, DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS CONTRACT NO. ISE-16T-MAND04

The work requires a qualified contractor for maintenance of the Mann Municipal Drain. Work will include clearing, brushing, rock excavation and regrading of the Mann Municipal Drain east of Burleigh Road.

Sealed tenders clearly marked as to content will be received by the Town Clerk, Municipal Centre, Fort Erie, Ontario

Until 2:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME on WEDNESDAY JUNE 22nd, 2016

All formal competitive bid opportunities are posted at www.bidding.com/forterie and effective June 2nd, 2016 bid documents can be purchased from the Town Hall, Infrastructure Services upon payment of twenty-eight dollars and twenty-five cents. (\$28.25)

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any and all tenders and the lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

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KIM CARTMELL AND KATHY WHITE/
SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Kristy-Lynn Raby and Marlo Desjardins wed at the Little Log Cabin in April.

Chapel a sanctuary for same-sex ceremonies

ANDREA TINGEY
Postmedia Network

A small log chapel in Fort Erie has become a haven for

same-sex couples desiring a no-nonsense wedding.

The non-denominational chapel is owned and operated by photographers and

friends Kim Cartmell and Kathy White. They estimate that about five percent of their weddings are same-sex. For a chapel that performs

five weddings a day, six days a week, that's almost a hundred same-sex weddings a year.

Cartmell says she believed it was important to include

that they do same-sex marriages on the website because "there is so much discrimination in the wedding business against same-sex couples," she said. "They get rejected and turned down a lot."

White, who officiates the same-sex ceremonies at the cabin, added, "There are chapels that won't do it."

Many chapels still won't perform same-sex weddings although they became legal over a decade ago. The charter's freedom of religion grants religious institutes the right to refuse to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies.

"They are allowed to say, 'No, I cannot do your wedding,'" said Cartmell, who added that they only use clergy who will officiate same-sex ceremonies. "If we put it right on the website it just answers that question immediately. They know right away we're same-sex friendly."

"We completely disagree with that," she added. "To us, that's the same as someone turning down a black person or a Chinese person or a Jewish person. That's just my personal feeling."

White emphasized that in reality, both same-sex and heterosexual weddings were very alike.

"We just don't pronounce them husband and wife," she said.

Kristy-Lynn Raby and Marlo Desjardins decided to elope at the chapel on April 22.

Raby and Desjardins are

originally from Espanola, a small town near Sudbury. One of the reasons they chose the chapel is that they knew they would be welcome.

"It's comforting knowing they support same-sex marriages," said Raby. "It just takes away any of that unknown."

"You're traveling seven hours, and you don't know what you're going to walk into. It's a special day, and you don't want somebody feeling awkward interacting with you."

Desjardins agrees. "It's nice when you see they actually advertise it, and they have picture of same-sex couples and stuff like that. It gives you that extra comfort level."

However, she added that she has not faced any discrimination. "I can't really say I've faced any adversity as far as being a lesbian," she said. "I think we've just been really lucky in that regard."

Kim and Kathy, who have already attended thousands of weddings as officiants and photographers, plan to continue marrying all kinds of couples from around the world.

"When (same-sex marriage) first was made legal, the first time you are at a same-sex wedding it just is very moving," said White. "I remember the first few I saw, it was very emotional."

"But now I've seen so many same-sex weddings it's just like any other wedding," "It's no big deal," added Cartmell.



CORRECTION NOTICE!

In the 2016 Discovery Fort Erie page 19

Communities in Bloom

Entering its 12th year, the Communities-in-Bloom competition is an ideal way to showcase and recognize the efforts of local property owners that keep Fort Erie beautiful, exhibit civic pride and practice environmental stewardship. On Monday, July 11, 2016 local volunteer judges will evaluate residential, commercial and industrial properties, neighbourhoods, and downtown areas – seeking excellence in a variety of categories. All participants will be recognized at the annual Communities-in-Bloom Awards Gala on Sunday, August 21, 2016. Application forms are available at Town Hall or for the Town's website, and are due by July 1, 2016. All Fort Erie citizens are encouraged to help keep Fort Erie beautiful. It is simple – pick up a piece of litter on the street, spruce up your property, volunteer your time to a community event, or even adopt a park. For more information, contact the Town of Fort Erie or visit its website at www.forterie.ca.

Community's leading ladies earn provincial awards

LAURA BARTON
Tribune Staff

Three Lakeshore Catholic High School students have received awards for their community contributions as young women.

The Leading Women, Leading Girls, Building Communities Award is given to women and girls who have demonstrated strong leadership and have worked towards improving the lives of others within their community.

Gabby McKinnon, Allie Moore and Megan Winger each received the award for their contributions at their school as well as in the community.

These girls have been heavily involved in different school activities. Even on Friday when they were to receive their awards, they came in a bit late because they had been doing something at the school.

"We've all been selected for different reasons through our leadership," said McKinnon.

McKinnon has been consistent with her school activi-

ties through her four years at Lakeshore. She received the award for her involvement on the school's volleyball team, school council, her excellent grades, good relationship with everyone at the school and her involvement in social justice activities.

Moore said she was truly honoured to be recognized by the local and provincial government for all the work she's done.

She's been president of the student council for the past two years and has been involved in many sports. Drama and organizing school events and fundraisers are additional reasons she got the award.

Winger is also a member of the student council and echoed the gratitude of her fellow award recipients.

Her other achievements include organizing holiday food and toy drives, school open houses, orientations and even a mental health awareness assembly. She also volunteers in her community at Maple Park Lodge and YMCA.

The award is a provincial

government award that's all about women empowering each other to do great within their lives and communities.

The "Leading Women" side of the award is for women over the age of 18; the "Leading Girls" are under 18.

They are nominated by anyone in their community through the MPP's office. The MPP, or their representative, then presents the award to those chosen.

MPP Cindy Forster was to present the award to Moore, who is from Fort Colborne, and MPP Wayne Gates to McKinnon and Winger, both from Fort Erie. Unfortunately, neither MPP could make it to the award presentation and representatives gave the awards to the teens on their behalf.

"We were amazed going through the nominations and letters of support for all the women in the riding and all that they do in the community," said Karrie Porter, constituency assistant for Forster.

lbarton@postmedia.com
Twitter: @Laura_Barton



LAURA BARTON/TRIBUNE STAFF

Gabby McKinnon, Megan Winger and Allie Moore each receive the Leading Women, Leading Girls, Building Communities Award for their contributions at their high school, Lakeshore Catholic High School, and within their communities. The awards are presented to them by constituency assistant Shannon Mitchell, left, on behalf of MPP Wayne Gates and constituency assistant Karrie Porter, right, on behalf of MPP Cindy Forster.

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GE plant brings 150 jobs to South Niagara

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

At more than 450,000 square feet, it will be the largest industrial building in Welland and second only to the entire Seaway Mill in size.

And the 150 jobs the new General Electric plant will create are likely just the beginning when it begins operations.

"This is probably the highest news we've had in Welland for a long, long time," Welland Mayor Frank Campion said. "It's one of the highest investments, employment and industrial manufacturing investments that we've seen."

Last Wednesday, eight

months after GE management announced plans to close its plant in Waukegan, Wis. and build a new facility in Canada, Campion and Welland economic development officer Dan Degazio announced that Welland was selected as the new home for the factory, where reciprocating engines, diesel engine components and other equipment currently being manufactured in Wisconsin will be manufactured.

Construction is expected to begin before the end of this summer on 75 acres of land on the west side of Highway 140, between Silverthorn Street and Buchner Road, encompassing the entire city-owned Harry Dill Industrial Park.

The new facility is expected to be operational by early 2018.

GE Canada spokeswoman Kim Warburton said more details about the factory will be released later this summer. However, she said the first phase of operations at the plant should create about 150 jobs. She said the company will begin hiring for some positions later this year.

The factory itself will be the first manufacturing facility of its kind in Canada.

Warburton said the facility's designation as a "thrilliant factory," is a reference to the use of digital technology in the production process, providing flexibility "so more than one business



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The 75 acre site near Highway 140 that will soon be home to a new General Electric factory last Wednesday in Welland.

requirements can be met on a changing basis."

She said plans and draw-

ings of the building also won't be available until later this summer.

Degazio called it a "global manufacturing facility."

"It has significance not only to Welland and the Niagara Region, but it's provincially and federally significant," he said. "This is hundreds of millions of dollars that are going to be invested in Welland, and this is only the start of it. The supply chain is significant."

For every job created at the GE plant, Degazio said about two more are associated with supply chain companies, providing services and equipment to the large manufacturing plant.

Although the plant is initially expected to employ 150, he estimates that number to increase substantially since the U.S. facility it is replacing currently employs about 350 workers.

Campion said work on promoting Niagara as a new home for the GE plant began in late September, after the company announced its plans in response to U.S. government allowing the charter to lapse for the U.S. Export-Import Bank, which finances sales of industrial equipment to overseas customers.

The company planned to move operations north of the border to take advantage of the export financing provided through Export Development Canada.

Campion said he immediately called Degazio when he heard the news, but Degazio had already started working toward promoting the city as a potential location for a new manufacturing plant.

Continued > page 26



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New plant is 'fantastic news' for region

Continued from > page 24

"Dan and economic development teams from throughout the region were right on it," Campion said. He told Degazio to "do what you need to do to get this here, giving Dan free rein to do what he does best, which is to get out there and close the deal."

Degazio said he and administrative assistant Lina DeChellis teamed up with economic development offices throughout the region to work toward bringing GE to Niagara.

He said economic development officers in Niagara municipalities share a common goal of bringing industry to Niagara, rather than competing with each other.

"Contrary to popu-

lar belief, we don't actually fight with each other," Degazio said, adding his colleagues from other municipalities "were all part and parcel to the initial meetings with GE which led to something coming together."

If it hadn't been for that team approach, "We weren't even in the picture."

Degazio said GE wasn't even considering Welland or any other community in the region until the company was approached by economic development officers from Welland, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne and Fort Erie, as well as former Niagara Economic Development Corp. director Bob Seguin, who has since retired.

"They came away from that meeting with a pretty good impression," Degazio

said.

GE management visited Welland two weeks after finalizing plans for the move. During that visit, Degazio said the managers told him they were "kind of surprised that five municipalities that were in competition were actually coming together in a cooperative mode."

"The co-operation was good news for them," Campion said. "We're all working together. It impacts the entire region. By working together in partnership, we can put a whole package together and work as one big team."

Niagara's team was competing for GE with jurisdictions across Canada since the company announced its plans.

Out of 10 municipalities in five provinces that were ini-

tially considered, the company narrowed its list to Welland and a municipality in Quebec before finally selecting Welland a few weeks ago.

Campion said millions of dollars worth of incentives helped seal the deal, provided by the city and Niagara Region through the Gateway Community Improvement Plan.

Although the company had initially estimated the cost of the new plant at \$205 million, Campion said the designs of the facility and cost estimates are yet to be finalized. Once that information is available, the value of the incentives can be determined.

But waiving development charges alone could save the company as much as \$6 million, the mayor said.

Degazio said the city's skilled workforce, manufacturing experience and the presence of Niagara College also contributed to the selection.

Campion said he hopes the presence of GE in the city will act as a catalyst to draw the attention of other major manufacturers.

"This is a big company coming here. It's big news and people in the industry are going to start to say, 'Hey, what's going on in Welland?'" he said.

Campion said city council put its full support behind efforts to bring GE to Welland.

Ward 5 Councillor Mike Petrachenko, whose ward will be home to the new plant, was ecstatic about the announcement.

"It's fantastic news for the

city of the Welland and for the region. It's great news," he said, giving full credit to local economic development staff.

"It's unbelievable. It's a credit to us, our workforce, the land that we have that's serviced, it's a fantastic location."

However, after years of helplessly watching as local industries have left Welland for greener pastures elsewhere, he had mixed emotions knowing that the city is benefiting from the job losses in Waukesha.

"I felt for those workers. I'm happy as all heck for Welland, but a part of me is a little disappointed for Wisconsin, but that's American politics."

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ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Economic development officers from throughout Niagara gathered in Welland, after announcing that General Electric would be building a manufacturing plant in the city. From left are Evan Acs, Port Colborne; David Oakes, Niagara Region; Serge Felicetti, Niagara Falls; Jim Thibert, Fort Erie; Dan Degazio, Welland; Brian York, St. Catharines; and Adam Joon, Niagara Region, on Wednesday June 1, 2016 in Welland, Ont.



Region will benefit from Welland location

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Niagara Region Chairman Alan Caslin said Welland's new General Electric engine plant will bring a "massive development" for the region as a whole.

"This is what we said we were going to do when we started this term of council, is bring in prosperity to Welland in terms of jobs," he said.

"One of the biggest companies in the world locates one of its manufacturing facilities here in Niagara is a huge initiative for us in terms of jobs in terms of prosperity, in terms of what we have aimed to do for our strategic plan."

He said the reason huge companies are starting to notice Niagara is the result of efforts "to make the region as attractive as we're trying to do."

Developing transportation systems, a labour-ready workforce, post-secondary institutions, incentive programs and waiving development charges and the region's status as a foreign trade zone point "all add up for Niagara as the place you want to be and the big companies recognize that," Caslin said.

Welland's economic development officer, Dan Degazio, teamed up with his peers from other Niagara communities and the Niagara Region after

announcing that General Electric would be establishing a manufacturing plant in the city.

The economic development officers calling themselves the Niagara Development Corridor Team all played a role in bringing the multinational company to the city, Degazio said.

Jim Thibert, general manager of Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corp., said each of Niagara's largest municipalities offered potential properties for consideration by the company.

But not all of them had all the amenities needed for the

facility.

Fort Erie, for instance, was unable to provide the company with an adequate natural gas supply.

Once the company chose Welland, they all teamed up and worked toward the common goal.

"I think the message here today is Niagara did deliver,"

he said.

"This investment benefits not only the residents of Welland, but the entire Niagara region when you attract a multinational employer like GE which continually lives in the top 10 of the Fortune 500 rankings. They're an amazing company and a great addition to our local

manufacturing industry supply chain."

"We all work together," said Niagara Falls economic development officer Serge Felicetti.

"Whether it's a project in Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, you name it across the region, anything we can do to assist we'll do it because

we have regional employers."

"People commute across this region to work in different communities," he said. "It's a positive thing when we can bring in a major company like that."

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Bob Gale

Police Board working toward new taxi, Uber rules

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

Efforts to deal with ride-hailing giant Uber in Niagara could come to a head this week.

The Niagara Regional Police services board has been labouring to update regulations dealing with the transportation company, which has been operating illegally in Niagara since November.

The board prepared a draft bylaw May 26 and the solicitor and officers from the NRP licensing unit have met with Uber and members of the taxi industry to hammer out a final version.

The board's licensing committee meets today to consider the changes.

Police board chair Bob Gale said they are taking a measured and deliberate approach to the issue. Areas such as Toronto, Mississauga and Ottawa have already reformulated their regulations and are dealing with the fallout.

"If we had rammed our regulations through, Uber might have bolted from the area," Gale said. "Maybe

that's good. Maybe that's bad. We are handing it the best way we can, and we are trying to do what's right."

Niagara's police board is responsible for bylaws that regulate business operators and drivers of various vehicles-for-hire, such as cabs, tow trucks, limousines, sightseeing and shuttle vehicles, as well as horse-drawn buggies.

As a result of the meetings with Uber officials and representatives of the taxi industry, Gale said the board is contemplating changes to its draft bylaw.

"The changes have been relatively significant from the police board's point of view," he said. "The talks have been courteous — unlike in some other areas. Maybe that will change as we go forward. Time will tell."

The board has yet to release the details of the proposed new regulations, though it has addressed the guiding principles it is using.

A press release from the board said changes are intended to level the playing field — as much as possible — between the ride-hailing services, which are called Trans-

portation Network Carriers (TNCs), and the taxi industry.

The board said the overriding objective of the new regulations in Niagara will be to promote public safety and consumer protection by ensuring drivers and vehicles in both industries are safe and adequately insured.

Gale said the board is working toward a self-imposed July 1 deadline.

"I can't believe the amount of time this particular issue is taking for the solicitor and the board members," he said. "We have a lot of other work to do — but we need to put this to bed."

"July 1 is still our date. That could change. My hurry was always to get something ready for tourist season. I know tourism really gets going here on the May 24th weekend, but I wanted the new regulations in place by July 1, so we didn't have to change the rules in midstream."

Uber Canada spokeswoman Susie Heath said the company welcomed the opportunity to work with Niagara to update rules for what she called "ride-sharing."

CONTINUED-PAGE 31



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KIM DOUGAN/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

The organizers of the Fenian Raids/Battle of Ridgeway Historical Authors Conference, held June 1 to 3 at the Clarion Hotel approached high school students last fall about creating a diorama of the battle between Canadian and Fenian forces in 1866 that occurred at the Fort Erie Docks. Students from Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School were responsible for historical research that students from Fort Erie Secondary School used to design a diorama. The task was hard considering the limited and sometimes contradictory information from period maps and records. The diorama, which is constructed of mainly foam and paint, took about three months to design and sculpt. The diorama will find a permanent home in the Greater Fort Erie Secondary School, which will be open in the fall of 2017. Students have also been informed that the organizers of the conference have arranged for a \$300 scholarship to be divided amongst the individuals involved in creating this diorama. From left, are FESS students Lauren Bosch and James Merry, with RCBS students Patrick Bartlett, Ben Pikel and Colin Wright beside the Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswel. Absent from photo is RCBS student Hayden Pearson.

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What happens after NRP seizes marijuana?

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

You could call it a pot secret location.

The Niagara Regional Police drug unit was extremely busy in April, seizing marijuana worth \$935,000 — and they have to keep all that pot somewhere.

Eventually, it all ends up at the NRP's "secure drug repository" — whether it is a baggie confiscated from a teenager or a bale of marijuana hauled out of a grow-op.

"We have a drug control officer who is responsible for the security and anything related to it," Sgt. Rich Gadeau said. "The investigating officer does the paperwork and puts the evidence into a locked receptacle in each division."

"The drug control officer then picks it up and takes it to the secure, centralized location, where the drugs are stored until the case is processed through court. Then it is sent to disposal."

The police bury marijuana plants after the court process is over, he said.

The NRP is granted pre-arrest permission from Health Canada to do that.

They incinerate all other drugs. Again, Health Canada grants permission to the NRP

to proceed.

"There is also the process of sending samples to Health Canada for analysis to confirm exactly what it is," Gadeau said.

"It's not like in the movies where the cop sticks his finger in the bag and says, 'Yep, it's cocaine — and it's pure.'"

"It doesn't happen that way. The sample is sent away for analysis."

A pair of busts in April filled up the NRP's storage lockers.

On April 14, police discovered a marijuana-growing operation in the basement of a Grimsby home consisting of more than 500 plants. The plants and dried product had a potential street value of about \$537,000.

On April 10, police discovered a \$400,000 marijuana grow-op at a Niagara Falls home in what they described as an elaborate marijuana-growing operation. More than 380 pot plants in various stages of growth and 1,400 grams of dried marijuana were seized.

In another bust, the NRP guns, gangs and grows unit raid on a Thorold home that seized \$10,700 in marijuana on April 22.

The federal government has been talking about legalizing marijuana in Canada,



GETTY IMAGES

but as pot laws currently stand it is only legal to purchase and consume marijuana with a prescription.

It remains illegal and a criminal offense to do so without the proper paperwork.

Police Chief Jeff McGuire has said his officers can use their discretion when deal-

ing with simple possession charges — but police investigations into trafficking continue unabated.

Niagara regional government also recently weighed in on the issue of legalization.

It passed a motion that provides recommendations to

Ottawa should the Canadian government move forward.

The motion called for strict regulations to reduce health and societal harms associated with marijuana use.

Those including regulating access by limiting where cannabis can be purchased and controlling the price, setting

a minimum age for purchase; investing federal dollars in education and prevention; addressing and preventing marijuana-impaired driving; and prohibiting marketing, advertising and sponsorship — especially to children.

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Niagara Regional Police raid a grow-op in St. Catharines in this file photo.



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The Niagara police services board is working on the regulations that deal with taxis and ride-hailing services.

Taxi industry says ride-hailing services place public at risk

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

"We look forward to continuing this work with them to moderate regulations to encourage innovation, put people first and create safe, reliable and affordable transportation options," she said.

Hanif Patni of Coventry Connections, which operates taxis in Niagara, said his company has invested heavily over the years to update its fleet and operations in Niagara.

"Now we are seeing the rug pulled out from under us, but we have never been against competition," he said. "Our view is if some player like Uber is going to be allowed, we have no objection as long as they are meeting the mandate that the police board sets in Niagara."

Two principles are in play. On one hand, the growth of Uber shows people have an appetite for a cheap, reliable, fast, ride-hailing service. The company has used that demand to barge its way into markets.

On the other hand, the taxi industry has traditionally depended on those markets

being tightly controlled to maintain profits and provide service. The controls include regulating the number of taxis on the streets and the rates they can charge.

The taxi industry believes ride-hailing services place the public at risk because they don't participate in the government-backed licensing process.

In Niagara, the process includes extensive criminal and driving history background checks, vehicle registration and safety checks, proof of applicable insurance provisions including commercial insurance and successful completion of a taxi driver training course.

In April, the NRP announced they stepped in and enforced the law. Police charged 20 drivers from Uber under a section of the provincial Highway Traffic Act that prohibits picking up passengers for compensation without a proper license. Those charges are before the courts.

Another potential stumbling block exists with Queen's Park. The provincial government is said to be reviewing legislation that regulates insurers and the products

they sell to Uber drivers.

Standard auto insurance policies in Ontario do not cover vehicles used to carry paying passengers. Commercial policies are expensive. Patni said it costs about \$10,000 to insure a taxi cab.

Heath said the company has always been "very clear that every Uber ride is insured."

For Niagara, the clock is ticking on Ontario's examination of the issue. The provincial legislature is scheduled to take its summer recess at the end of this week. It won't resume sitting until Sept. 9.

"We are waiting on the provincial government to deal with the insurance issue," Gale said. "We will have our regulations ready for July 1, but it may be conditional on the provincial government dealing with insurance."

"We need the OK from the province that the Insurance the TNCs are using is sufficient. Safety is No. 1 for us and insurance is a big part of it. We don't intend to allow them to operate here until then."

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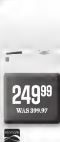
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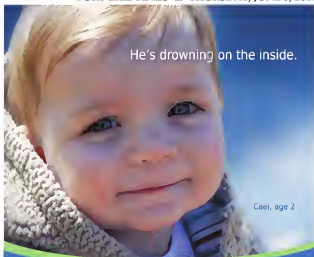


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Cael's mother, Nicole

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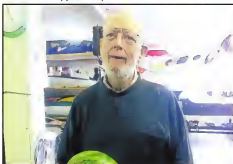
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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Blake Nicholls, 81, opened Nicholls Marine in 1956. His body was discovered in his Fort Erie home on Nov. 25, 2013.

Life in prison for man who killed senior

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

Sixty-nine-year-old Michael Laforme has been sentenced to life in prison for bludgeoning a Fort Erie senior to death with a claw hammer in a senseless crime a judge called "cruel and brutal in the extreme."

"The offender's dark side is dark indeed," Judge James Ramsey said Friday in Superior Court of Justice in Welland.

He said the defendant attacked 81-year-old Blake Nicholls with a hammer out of "misplaced revenge."

Laforme had romantic feelings toward Nicholls's Bertie Street neighbour but became enraged after learning Nicholls had warned the woman to steer clear of him. He attacked Nicholls with the hammer, striking him 16 times. His skull was fractured, he was kicked and stomped and his ribs were fractured.

Laforme then ransacked Nicholls's home as he lay dead or dying on his living room floor.

His body was discovered Nov. 25, 2013 by the woman Laforme was hoping to impress.

The mandatory sentence for a conviction of second-degree murder is life in prison. At issue at the sentencing hearing Friday was how many years Laforme must serve behind bars before he is eligible to apply for parole.

Crown attorney Tyler Shuster said the defendant, who has 50 previous criminal convictions including a 2013 conviction for striking his roommate on the head with a hammer, preyed on

Nicholls's good nature and generosity.

"He was a person who was willing to help his neighbour. He was a victim of his generosity and vulnerability."

Shuster said the sheer brutality of the crime warranted a term of between 15 and 18 years before he can apply for parole.

He described Laforme as a man who throughout his life demonstrated he "regularly has been unable to control himself."

Defence counsel Geoffrey Hadfield asked the judge to consider imposing a parole ineligibility of 12 years, citing his client's tumultuous upbringing.

"It's the classic, if I could call it that, story of alcoholism and violence in the home," he said of Laforme's childhood.

He said the courts must recognize an aboriginal offender's family history can "explain, not excuse, in some measure" how an individual comes before the courts.

"It must be considered when imposing sentence," Hadfield told the judge.

The judge ruled Laforme must spend at least 16 years behind bars before he can be eligible for parole. By that time, he'll be 85 years old.

A jury found Laforme guilty of second-degree murder on April 29 following a month-long trial.

Nicholls, a father of three and grandfather to six, opened Nicholls Marine on Niagara Boulevard in Fort Erie in 1956. He ran unsuccessfully for a seat on regional council in 2006.

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Newcomer opens with victory

BERNIE PUCHALSKI
Postmedia Network

Ben Kenel made an impressive debut on the Niagara Men's Golf Tour Sunday at Bridgewater in Fort Erie.

The 19-year-old Dundas native capped a two over par 37-37-74 to record a one-shot victory in the opening event on the tour.

The Dundas Valley member heard about the tour from his friend Zach Hallberg, a former tour player, and decided he would give it a whirl.

"I've done competitive golf before, and I wanted to find something that wasn't so intense," said Kenel, who just finished his second year of the golf management program at Niagara College. "A lot of the guys out there are just having a good time, there's skins games and closest to the pins."

"Unlike GAO (Golf Association of Ontario) events and other provincial events, it's competitive but at the same time no one out there is taking it too seriously."

The former Hamilton junior tour player, who placed eighth at the 2015 Golf Ontario Junior Spring Classic at Wooden Sticks

in Uxbridge, wasn't expecting to record a victory in his debut on tour, but thought he would play well.

"I've been playing a lot of golf this spring, I've been hitting my driver well and keeping the ball in play, and I've turned my putting around."

He has switched to a cross-handed grip and it seems to be working.

"I've made a lot of putts that in the past I wouldn't have been making, and going into the first event I felt good about my game."

Kenel was solid all day Sunday, starting with a two-iron he hit down the middle off the first tee.

"I put it on the green and two-putted, so right away I felt good and thought I could play pretty well."

He ended up hitting 14 or 15 greens in regulation, with the turning point in his round coming on the par three 13th hole where he hit his tee shot over the green and behind a tree.

"It was a super-tough chip and I chucked it, but it bounced off the cart path and got to within three feet and I made the putt," he said. "To get a three in that situation was a good confidence boost, because I told the

guys that I was playing with what I was going to make a triple (bogey)."

His opening victory hasn't altered his expectations for his first year on tour.

"I want to keep having fun and keep building on this performance," he said. "It was a huge confidence boost to win my first event, and I want to keep hitting the ball the way I know I can and playing to the best of my abilities."

He would also like to improve on his putting performance. He struggled on the greens at Bridgewater with three three-putts.

"If I do that, I think I can continue to have a good year," he said.

Rounding out the top 10 were Lookout Point's Ryan Dyck (36-39-73); Rockway Vineyards' Kham Vong (40-36-76), the defending points champion on the tour; Oaklands' Jim Briggs (38-38-76) and Adam Briggs (37-39-76); International's Maric Brooks (37-39-76); Lowville's Shawn Beatty (41-36-77); public player Tyler Kasuback (40-37-77); Rockway Vineyards' Andrew Woods (42-36-78); and Lookout Point's Aaron Black (37-41-88).

Next stop on the tour is June 26 at the Ussher's Creek course at Legends on the Niagara in Niagara Falls.



PHOTO SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Dundas native Ben Kenel shot a 74 at Bridgewater Sunday to win the first event on the Niagara Men's Golf Tour.

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This week in minor soccer



GREATER FORT ERIE MINOR SOCCER/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

The Greater Fort Erie Youth Soccer Club's Under 9 travel team played at home on Monday night. From left, Morgan Young, Emily Gill, Avery Pepin and Abigail Campbell are pictured here before the game.



GREATER FORT ERIE MINOR SOCCER/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Brooke Annett lined up for a practice shot while coach Joe Fletcher cheered her on at practice on Monday night. Greater Fort Erie Youth Soccer Club's Under 6 house league program kicked off its season Monday, May 30 and games are played every Saturday throughout the summer.



GREATER FORT ERIE MINOR SOCCER/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Coach Joe Fletcher took time out to help his son Sebastian with his shin pads before practice on Monday. Fletcher is head coach and convener of the Greater Fort Erie Youth Soccer Club's Under 6 house league division, and he is always on the look out for new volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact GFEYSC at 905-871-3530 or administrator@forterriesoccer.com



GREATER FORT ERIE MINOR SOCCER/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Collin Wisbey received a quick hug from his biggest fan and cousin Mia Mines-Bekesy during his game at Optimist Park Monday. Collin plays in Greater Fort Erie Youth Soccer Club's Under 10 house league division with games played every Monday.

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MIKE ORBUST/ISTOCK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Horses and jockeys were ready to go in the first race at Fort Erie Race Track as the thoroughbreds returned to the historic border oval for the 119th season of live racing on the first Twilight Tuesday of the year. Opening day crowds enjoyed an eight-race card and a free concert on the Tiki Bar Patio. Sunday racing begins on June 12 at 1:50 p.m. with a Farmers Market, running every Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until the final race.

Opening day at track a success

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

have asked for a better day at the Fort Erie Race Track.

The track opened last Tuesday for its 119th season of live horse racing, drawing

In an estimated 4,000 people for an eight-race card, said the track's chief operating and financial officer, Tom Valiquette.

"It was a great kick-off for the season and the weather was perfect," he said.

"It's been a long winter off and it's great to be back. The track is in great shape and we're all pleased the season is underway."

Total betting for the day exceeded the \$1 million mark at \$1,190,703, with on track wagering at \$117,000. Those numbers are up "marginally from last year despite one less race."

Program sales totalled \$1,400 and food and beverages "were around \$27,000" for the day.

Mt. Cayuga, trained by Nicholas Gonzalez and ridden by veteran jockey Christopher Griffith was the first horse to cross the finish line during the first race of the day.

Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates, who attended opening day to support the track, said he was "overjoyed to see

so many people."

"It's clear the community continues to support the track. (Last Tuesday) was a record day," he added.

Gates said he continues to act as an advocate for the track. Last month, he called on the provincial government to support the race-track's plan for self-sufficiency by including it in the newly created Niagara gaming zone, which could potentially help increase race days and return the slots to the track.

He said the province agreed to extend its two-year contract with the race-track to secure its future until 2021 but "the reintroduction of gaming" needs to occur to keep the track alive.

Valiquette encourages the community to continue to support the track by visiting during race days over the course of the season.

The amenities are free, there's free parking, there's free admission and we'll have the same good racing people have come to expect," he said.

Fort Erie will host 40 race dates on Tuesdays at 4:15 p.m. and Sundays at 1:50 until Oct. 18. Sunday racing begins on June 12.

The 81st running of the Prince of Wales Stakes, the second jewel in Canada's Triple Crown, takes place on Tuesday, July 26.

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Remembering the Point Abino Hockey Team of 1937

While researching for the stories about Fort Erie's hockey history, the name Bob Grimes appeared on many occasions.

I visited with Bob at his Sherksen farm and I became fascinated with sharing his memories of past hockey experiences.

Bob was a goaltender, along with Ray Zimmerman, on the first Spears intermediate A team that played the opening game in the new Fort Erie Memorial Arena in 1949.

As a young boy, Bob was the mascot on a team formed in 1939 by Bob's father, Clarence, and assisted in financing by Harry Dell.

The Point Abino Hockey Team played in the Ontario Rural Hockey Association League in the intermediate division.

Many of the players came from the Wilsons' Hockey Team of Ridgeway, which existed from 1929 to 1932. This team played in the Frontier Hockey League with games between the U.S. and Canada, winning the championship in the 1933-1934 season.

The Point Abino Team was coached by Bill Holmes from 1936 to 1937. He was the former centre of the New York Americans in the National Hockey League during the early 1930s.

They went on to win the intermediate division, beating Beachville, Plattsville and St. George's. The team also beat

the Mitchell Hawks in the senior division before 800 fans in Fort Colborne Arena.

Bill Holmes would coach the Spears Intermediate A Team in 1949.

The Lighthouse Team normally played and practiced in Fort Erie and were scheduled to practice the day in 1936 when the arena roof collapsed under an unprecedented snowfall, so all remaining games were played in Fort Colborne.

As finances were limited, the team purchased Toronto Maple Leafs sweaters from the Eaton's catalogue. Along with Bob's mother and several neighbours, the designated lighthouse was cut out along with the letters PT. Abino using a cardboard stencil from a cereal box. The stencils were traced onto a piece of felt, cut out, and sewn onto the blue sweaters.

Clarence Grimes had a new 1936 Chevrolet Coach that was used to transport players and equipment with a trailer sometimes carrying the stick boys.

It was not unusual for 2,000 fans to watch a game as the entire town of Ridgeway would show up.

Our feature picture is the 1937 team and I am sure many of you will recognize the players' names with families still living in the area.

Vern Bonner for the Heritage Arts Legacy of Fort Erie



Pictured is the Point Abino Hockey Team in 1937. From left, are (back row) Bill Holmes, Ed Baer, Herb Bishop, Red Huffman, Vic Teal, Clarence Grimes, G. Zavitz, H. Dell, Joe Dell, (front) John Bishop, John Guite, Harold Werry, Garnet Brodie, Vin Teal, Em Baer and mascot Bob Grimes.

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Rio Vista Retirees results

Special to the Fort Erie Times

It was a very good turnout of 55 golfers that tested the course last week for the Rio Vista Retirees.

Once again, the course won out but the players all enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie as usual.

Credit goes to the committee of chairman John Lunin and crew of Marty Roberts, Dennis Bailey and Dennis Ferdinandi.

The 50/50 draw was held at the start of the proceedings and the winner asked that we not tell anyone. Enjoy your



Rio Vista Retirees

winnings rich! It will come in handy on your upcoming golf trip.

Last week's event was the ever popular two man scramble in which each player must have at least four drives.

The hidden hole was number eight with extra points going to

anyone who birdied the hole.

Closest to the pin winner on the par three seventh was Warren Hanks. Only six other golfers managed to get their tee shot on the green.

The scores were extremely good as out of the 26 teams, half of them managed net par or better.

Shot of the day goes to Tony Vanderkiet as his second shot on number two was close enough for a gimme birdie.

Wednesday's game was a special four man scramble with a twist to be explained. Read the results in next week's edition of the Fort Erie Times.



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Successful comedy night

JILL SAWCHUK/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

From left, Sarah Schultz, program coordinator, is pictured with Niagara-on-the-Lake comedian Joe Pillitteri and Karen van der Zalm, executive director of I CAN T.E.R. at the Farm Safety For Kids Fundraiser Comedy Night recently held at the Sanctuary Centre for the Arts. The event was a huge success, with \$3,164 raised. The money will be used to develop a children's farm safety program at I CAN T.E.R.



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This log church was built in 1834 in Willogby Township, north of Snyder, Stevensville and Fort Erie. Over time the smaller communities became part of Fort Erie and the church was just north of the boundary line. In 1960 a Christian Education wing was added to the brick church which crossed the line into what became Fort Erie in 1970, the year in which the City of Niagara Falls absorbed Willogby Township, with the sanctuary on its property line. The building now sits in two cities and ministers to both, the sanctuary in one city, art gallery and office in another, the kitchen and hall straddling both. **Sunday worship service 11:00 am; on Sodom Road, Ft. Erie, just north of Stevensville, QEW exits 16 & 17**

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ATTENTION!

Obituaries

Obituaries



JABELMANN, Kurt Bernhard - 1932 - 2016 - Kurt Jabelmann passed away on June 1, 2016 at Barrow Place Care Community, Emira, ON at the age of 83 years. Kurt leaves behind wife Vanessa, son Brian (Allison Read), grandson Travis, niece Annagrat Colquhoun, nephews Hans and Ernst Goutz, childhood friends Walter and Erika Wolfrath and will be missed by his many extended family and friends. Kurt was born in Grabow Germany on September 22, 1932. At eighteen he travelled to Canada looking for work. He managed to get his first job as a lumberjack in Kapuskasing Ontario. It was a real experience for him. After a year and a half, he left the lumber camp to go south to Fort Erie for warmer weather. He was hired to work on the Peace Bridge and then a Fort Erie Race Track job was offered to him; he took it. At the race track, he soon became the track superintendent for the Ontario Jockey Club. He remained employed with Ontario Jockey Club for his entire working life, retiring at the age of 60 years while working at Mohawk Raceway in Campbellville Ontario. He enjoyed his work immensely, as he enjoyed people, job variety and animals. Animals of all kinds loved Kurt. As a child, Kurt slept with the cows and harnessed the horses for the field work. His communication with animals was amazing. After retirement Kurt started a small dog boarding kennel. Always a giver - he truly served and helped others in need in a true Christian way. Because of this, he will always be remembered for his kindness, gifts and captivating stories. He was a proud Canadian and gave back by taking in foster children for many years. Family received friends on Monday, June 6, 2016 at the **MACKINNON FAMILY FUNERAL HOME**, 55 Mill Street East, Acton, ON from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. with a funeral service commencing at 12 p.m. in the Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at Eden Mills Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Alzheimer's Society would be appreciated by the family. On-line condolences may be made at www.mackinnonfuneralhome.com



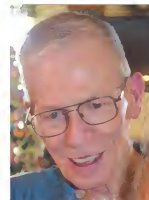
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KUBIK, Kyle - It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of Kyle, June 2nd, 2016 at the age of 24. Cherished son of Jorg and Kellie, loving baby brother of Dylan. Cherished grandson of Christal Kubik and Dianne Fowler. Dear nephew of Diana Kubik and Richard Bowering. He will be missed dearly by his bud, Cousin Seth. Fondly remembered by his godparents Mark and Jolene Stack. Kyle has touched the lives of many and will be fondly remembered by friends and family. Taken from the words of one of Kyle's favourite songs "Never look back, try to make a positive impression, life's a prize, that lies at your possession". The family will receive friends at **MORSE & SON FUNERAL HOME**, 5917 Main Street, Niagara Falls on Friday, June 10th from 2-4 and 7-9 pm. A service to celebrate Kyle will be held at the funeral home on Saturday, June 11th at 1 pm. Cremation has taken place. As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to Southridge Shelter or Patterson Mental Health. Memories, photos and condolences can be shared at www.morseandson.com



HUHTALO, William Jack -

On Thursday June 2, 2016, Jack suddenly and peacefully passed away, with his family by his side, at the age of 73. Loving husband to Linda Dianne for forty-five years, cherished father to Cindy (Rick) Wowk, Chris (Deanna) Merryvees and Jack (Andrea) Huhtalo and predeceased by his dear son William (1986). Loving grandpa to six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Dear brother to Ted (Dorothy) Huhtalo and uncle to Becky (Colin) Jardine. **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES** 722 Ridge Rd N, Ridgeway entrusted with arrangements. A graveside service will be held at Ridgeway Memorial Cemetery, Ridgeway, on Friday June 10th, 2016 at 3:30 in the afternoon. In memory of Jack, those who wish may donate to the Fort Erie SPCA.



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